

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application with the following listing of claims.

Listing of claims

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus as described in claim 8,~~ A RAKE receiver with N fingers, the RAKE receiver comprising:

a first stage, the first stage configured to use an input signal to find a set of more than N paths;

a second stage, the second stage configured to use the first set of more than N paths, the input signal and a quality signal from the RAKE receiver to generate a set of N paths, the second stage generates the set of N paths more frequently than the first stage generates the set of more than N paths; and

a third stage, the third stage configured to use the set of N paths to configure the N fingers of the RAKE receiver,

wherein:

the first stage is configured to use an output of a matched filter to generate the first set of more than N paths; and

the second stage is configured to generate a new set of N paths while the first stage is inactive.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus for configuring a~~ A RAKE receiver, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an input signal;

a searcher, the searcher configured to use the input signal to find a set of candidate paths; and,

a selector, the selector configured to use the input signal, the set of candidate paths and a quality signal from the RAKE receiver to select a subset of candidate paths that are used to configure the RAKE receiver, the selector configured to generate a new subset of paths while the searcher is inactive.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus~~ A RAKE receiver as described in claim 14, the searcher configured to use the input signal to find a set of M candidate paths, the selector comprising M correlators, the selector configured to use the outputs of the M correlators to generate the subset of candidate paths.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus~~ A RAKE receiver as described in claim 14, the searcher configured to use an output of a matched filter to generate the set of candidate paths.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus~~ A RAKE receiver as described in claim 16, the selector configured to generate a new subset of paths while the searcher is active generating a new set of candidate paths.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus for configuring a~~ A RAKE receiver, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an input signal;

a searcher, the searcher configured to use the input signal to find a set of candidate paths, the set of candidate paths containing M paths; and

a selector, the selector configured to use the input signal, the set of candidate paths and a quality signal from the RAKE receiver to select a smaller set of candidate paths, the selector comprising $k \cdot M$ correlators, wherein K correlators are assigned to each of the selected paths, and the selector configured to use $k \cdot M$ correlators to generate M estimates.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus~~ A RAKE receiver as described in claim 19, the selector configured to use the M estimates to generate the smaller set of candidate paths.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for configuring a RAKE receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

- finding a first set of paths;
- searching the first set of paths to generate a first set of correlation values;
- selecting a second set of paths from the first set of paths based on a second set of correlation values and a quality signal from the RAKE receiver; and
- updating the second set of paths without updating the first set of paths.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method as described in claim 22, further comprising the step of updating the second set of paths while updating the first set of paths.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method as described in claim 22, wherein the step of selecting the second set of paths further comprises tracking the first set of paths.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for configuring a RAKE receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving an input signal;
- finding a first set of paths;
- searching the first set of paths to generate a set of correlation values;
- selecting a second set of paths from the first set of paths based on the correlation values, the input signal and a quality signal from the RAKE receiver; and
- updating the second set of paths without updating the first set of paths.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method as described in claim 27, further comprising the step of updating the second set of paths while updating the first set of paths.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method as described in claim 27, wherein the step of selecting the second set of paths further comprises tracking the first set of paths.